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WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE



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# ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH  
for the Year  
1950

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Terminated duties on 31st Oct., 1950)
			O. M. HOLDEN, G.M., M.D., M.B., D.P.H. (Acting Part-Time). (Appointed 13th Nov., 1950).
			L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Commenced duties on 29th Jan., 1951).
Clerk	...	...	G. PROSSER.
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	T. S. WATTS, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E. (Terminated duties on 15th, April, 1950)
			T. K. DUNCAN, M.R.S.A., A.M.I.E.E., A.A.B.S.S., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Commenced duties on 1st Aug., 1950).

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.  
Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

During 1950 there was an outbreak of Measles causing a total of 80 cases which occurred almost entirely in the last quarter of the year, while only one case occurred under one year of age, four cases were notified in adults over thirty years of age. A minor outbreak of Whooping Cough manifested itself during the third and fourth quarters and was prevalent in the younger age group. No deaths resulted from these infections. Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in adults and there was one resultant death. One case of Paratyphoid and four cases of Food Poisoning were contracted but in each case the cause was not found.

Diphtheria Immunisation statistics for the country show that over nine million children in England and Wales have now been immunised against diphtheria during the last 10 years. As a consequence, the annual deaths have been reduced from 2,800 to about 95 and cases from 55,000 to less than 2,000 for the country.

A drop of 27,000 immunisations during the first half of 1950 coupled with the observation that because of the vast reduction in diphtheria parents become less alive to the dangers of the disease, prove that renewed efforts must be made to sustain the campaign if valuable ground is not to be lost.

The sewage disposal for Weobley Village is by means of two percolating tanks and is ineffective in producing innocuous effluents. Consideration will have to be given to a more costly scheme of providing a modern sewage disposal plant.

During the year the Council completed no houses. The demand for sanitary dwellings in this area is heavy and I can only urge that all steps be taken to expedite the provision of more houses to meet the needs of the populace.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. T. K. Duncan, your Sanitary Inspector, for the assistance he has afforded me.

L. N. GOULD,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,727
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,349
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to the Rate Books								1,878
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£19,042
Sum represented by a Penny Rate			...	...	...	...	...	£80

### EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:—

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	118	63	55
	(Illegitimate)	8	4	4
	TOTAL	126	67	59
STILL BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	2	1	1
	(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	TOTAL	2	1	1
DEATHS	...	84	43	41
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES		—	—	—
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE				
YEAR OF AGE	(Legitimate)	5	3	2
	(Illegitimate)	—	—	—

### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	19.8
Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.8
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	0.31
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	0.37
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	13.2
Death rate for England and Wales	...	...	11.6
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	39.7
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	...	...	29.8

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory. Since the end of the year the Laboratory has moved from the County Offices to new premises at the County Hospital, Hereford.

### CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

#### SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Minor Ailments Clinic	...	Monday and Friday, 10 to 11 am.
Orthopaedic Clinic	...	Tuesdays (by appointment)
Speech Therapy Clinic	...	Wednesdays (by appointment)
Child Psychology	...	Thursdays (by appointment)
Vaccination	...	First Friday of each month, 11 a.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic	...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.
Dental Clinic	...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.



All the above clinics are held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital.

Child Welfare Centre: at Weobley, on the first Monday in each month, at 2.30 p.m., and at Dilwyn on the last Monday in each month at 2.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. T. K. Duncan, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

### 1. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA

The Rural District is situated in the north-western part of the County of Herefordshire. It consists of twenty-six parishes, each having a village or a hamlet as its centre. The villages of Weobley and Eardisland are more built up than any others in the area.

The main industry is agriculture and the majority of the population are connected with it.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLIES. WEOBLEY VILLAGE:

The village has its own piped supplies, water being obtained from the natural gathering grounds at the Hurst. Demands have shown an increase during the year but they have been met and no shortages have occurred. One of the heaviest consumers is the local school.

Chlorination is carried out at the Hurst and it is attempted to keep this at the rate of .4 p.p. million. The water contains a fair proportion of free solids which absorb the chlorine quickly.

Number of houses supplied	...	...	...	110
Number of houses supplied by standpipe	...	...	...	24
Population supplied approximately	...	...	...	450

#### PARISH SUPPLIES

Some of the villages are dependant on wells for their supplies, the following villages having this as a source of supply: Almeley, Blakemere and Preston-on-Wye.

A new borehole has been sunk at Dilwyn and it is hoped that the village can be supplied from it. Another borehole has been sunk at Almeley but this will only suffice for the housing site.

#### PRIVATE SUPPLIES

##### MANSEL LACY, YAZOR and BYFORD

These parts of the area are supplied with mains water from the purification Plant on the Wye at Byford.

Private supplies exist in the parishes of Eardisland, Mansel Gamage, Canon Pyon, Brinsop and Staunton-on-Wye.

## SAMPLING: RAW WATER SUPPLY

Bacteriological Examination	...	...	...	69
Chemical Examination	...	...	...	4

## CHLORINATED SUPPLY

Bacteriological Examination	...	11	11	Satisfactory
News wells sunk	...	...	3	
Wells cleansed	...	...	7	

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The village of Weobley is provided with a sewerage system and disposal works. Inspection and flushing of the sewers takes place each fortnight. These are in good condition.

The outfall works are inefficient and cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Consideration will undoubtedly have to be given to their replacement.

Dilwyn is provided with a sewer which serves part of the village. It discharges untreated into a ditch at the beginning of the common. In its present method of discharge it cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

Number of drain tests	...	...	...	14
Number of new drains laid	...	...	...	14
Number of sewerage installations built	...	...	...	6
Number of new connections to the sewer	...	...	...	4

## CONVERSIONS

Pits to pails	...	...	...	...	4
Pits and pails to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	3

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

No cases of pollution have been reported during the year.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse collections are carried out in all parts of the area. The Council do not have their own refuse vehicle and all collections are by contract. The service can be improved and steps have been taken to do so.

Disposal takes place by tipping into a disused sand pit. No complaints have been received from this during the year.

## DISINFECTION

Formalin gas or spraying with liquid formaldehyde are the methods of disinfection used. Six houses and part of one castle were disinfected during the year.

## RODENT CONTROL

During the year the discharging of all functions under the Destruction of Pests Act, 1949 were under the control of the Council. So far, the Council have not appointed their own operator.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Table showing inspections carried out during the year:—

Inspections under	Number	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices Complied with
Housing ... ..	284	41	5	12
Public Health Act, 1936 ... ..	160	41	6	21
Factories Act, 1937 ... ..	26	—	—	—
Hop-pickers' byelaws ... ..	33	7	—	7
Bakehouses ... ..	9	2	—	2
Slaughterhouses ... ..	2	—	—	—
Schools ... ..	13	8	—	7
Water Supplies ... ..	163	6	1	4
Infectious Disease ... ..	23	—	—	—
Nuisances ... ..	32	8	—	8
Routine Rent Collections ... ..	420	—	—	—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS  
INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of written Inspections Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.—Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	20	18	—
2.—Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	12	8	—
3.—Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises ... ..	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	32	26	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness, S.L. ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding, S. 2 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp., S. 3 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilations, S. 4 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors, S. 6 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences, S. 7 ... ..	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	—	—	—	—



## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Number of Council houses built in 1950	...	...	...	...	0
Number of privately owned houses built in 1950	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Council houses under construction	...	...	...	...	6
Number of private houses under construction	...	...	...	...	1
Number of demolition orders made during the year	...	...	...	...	0
Number of closing orders (Section 12) during the year	...	...	...	...	0
Number of houses in which the owner has given an undertaking not to re-let for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses made fit by the owner as an alternative to demolition					0

The quality of some of the housing in the area is poor. The years of war when nothing could be done and the present high costs of building repairs allied to in many cases the small rentals obtained have all contributed to this state of affairs.

The housing needs of the populace are very great and the Council have schemes in hand to attempt to mitigate this heavy problem.

### INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR:—

Number of houses inspected for housing defects under the Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	120
Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	140
Number of dwellings found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation	...	...	...	...	41

### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:—

Number of notices served	...	...	...	...	5
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	0
Number of notices in which proceedings have been instituted	...	...	...	...	4

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

The control of milk has now passed to the National Agricultural Advisory service. Under an agreement with the County Council samples of milk from schools are taken where the supply is undesignated. There are now only two schools in this area.

Number of Samples taken	...	...	...	24
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### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number in the district	...	...	...	...	3
Notices served	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	2



FOOD PREMISES

The following foods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption. They were surrendered by the owners to be destroyed.

Food	Quantity	Condition
Beef ... ..	15¼ lbs.	Bone taint.
Cans (Miscellaneous) ...	140	Blown, damaged or leaking.
Bacon ... ..	44 lbs.	Taint from fish feeding to pig.
		Returned to supplier.

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS

Number of farms having accommodation for pickers	...	...	7
Number of visits during the season	...	...	33
Number of defects found.	Various defects were found in all cases. Informal notices were given and all the defects remedied.		

The growers inform the local authority before the occupation of their premises and inspections are then carried out. When the pickers are in the huts inspections are carried out at frequent intervals during their occupation.

The standards of the premises are good and the owners endeavour to meet all the requirements of the byelaws.

It was noted that all the premises were sprayed before and frequently during occupation with D.D.T. and that bins and refuse receptacles were provided on all the farms.

No cases of infectious disease were notified amongst the pickers.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE		AGE OF PATIENT														
		0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—6	6—7	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	...	3	3	2	5	7	—	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	33
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	2
Measles	...	1	—	6	9	8	8	11	17	14	2	—	3	1	—	80
Pneumonia	...	—	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	—	6
Paratyphoid Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	...	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1936).

								Total Under 15	Estimated Mid-Year child population, 1950		
Age at 31. 12 50	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14		Under 5	5-14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1950	49	48	47	46	41- 45	36- 40				
	—	51	80	84	78	338	376	1007	611	872	1483

These figures indicate that 47.9% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 45.8% at the end of 1949. 81.9% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 72.2% at the end of the previous year. To sum up, 67.9% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 61.5% for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1950, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of twenty-eight males and thirty-six females who normally reside within the district.

During the year, twelve new cases were notified, nine on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and three because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, two deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred and three left the district.

The following figures give a comparison of the number of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in each of the Local Authority districts in Northern Herefordshire:—

				Prevalence of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Bromyard Urban	...	...		7.3
Bromyard Rural	...	...		4.9
Kington Urban	...	...		9.6
Kington Rural	...	...		9.1
Leominster Borough	...	...		7.0
Leominster & Wigmore Rural	...	...		7.0
Weobley Rural	...	...		10.1

### CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	—	3
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	1	—	1
8. Measles ...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	4	3	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	1	1
17.—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	5	2	7
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	4	5	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	1	1
20. Other heart disease ...	6	15	21
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ...	1	—	1
24. Bronchitis ...	1	2	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	—	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	3	1	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8	12
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—
34. All other accidents ...	3	1	4
35. Suicide ...	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ...			84



